

IN THE CLAIMS:

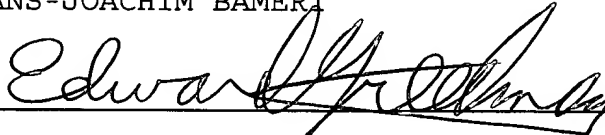
Please cancel claims 21-40 submitted by Preliminary Amendment
dated November 13, 2001, ^{and substitute} with claims 41-55 attached hereto.
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R E M A R K S

By this Further Preliminary Amendment, changes submitted in the International Office are being incorporated hereby. The original claims are being replaced by new claims 41-55. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

HANS-JOACHIM BAMERT



COLLARD & ROE, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 365-9802

Allison C. Collard, Reg. No. 22,532
Edward R. Freedman, Reg. No. 26,048
Attorneys for Applicants

Enclosure: Substitute Specification
 New set of claims
 Marked-up specification showing changes

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EL 871 448 329 US — Lisa L. Vulpis
Lisa L. Vulpis

DEVICE FOR HOLDING THE LOG TRANSMITTER OF A BOAT SPEEDOMETER

The invention relates to a device for holding the log transmitter of a boat speedometer, comprising a sleeve body with an oblong center opening arranged in a fixed manner in a perforation in the hull of the boat. The log transmitter, which is equipped with a fan wheel or the like, can be inserted in and retained in said perforation in a watertight and detachable manner.

In conjunction with a known system for measuring the speed of boats, use is made of a log transmitter that is accommodated in a sleeve body that is fixed on the boat. Said log transmitter comprises a rotating fan wheel that can be influenced by the water for generating measuring pulses that are supplied to an indicator element via electrical conductors. Furthermore, it is known that substances suspended and floating in the water in many cases influence or obstruct the motion of the fan wheel particularly after the boat has been moored for longer periods of time, so that cleaning or repair work is required. The log transmitter has to be removed from the sleeve body for such work, whereby larger amounts of water flow via the center opening into the interior of the boat while the log transmitter is being removed, and in the course of the subsequent reinstallation of the latter. Such water often can be removed only in a complicated manner.

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The problem of the invention is to provide measures that prevent water from entering the interior of the boat as the log transmitter is being removed or installed or replaced.

Said problem is solved according to the invention in that the sleeve body, on which the end facing away from the water supports a head part in a watertight manner, said head part having a coaxial center opening that is connected with the oblong center opening of the sleeve body in a watertight manner and having the same shape and cross sectional size as the latter opening; that the oblong and center openings jointly receive the log transmitter in a watertight manner; and in that the oblong and center openings can be blocked or released by a blocking slide depending on the position of the log transmitter, said slide being transversely guided in a watertight manner in the head part. In this way, when the log transmitter is removed and has reached a position located above the plane of the blocking slide, the latter can be pushed into the closing position for the center openings or, when the log transmitter is subsequently inserted again and has nearly reached of the plane of the slide, the blocking slide has to be moved outwards in order to release the center openings, so that the log transmitter can be moved into the working position. Over the short duration of the movements for removing or reinserting the log transmitter, the blocking

guided in a watertight manner in the head part in or on both sides, and water is prevented from passing by in the direction of the end of the log transmitter facing away from the fan wheel. The annular body is usefully made of [a stiff] any desired, for example metallic or plastic, material, and provided with a groove located in the zone of the plane of the blocking slide for receiving a further sealing ring.

Furthermore, provision is made that the ring body permanently stabilizes the plane of the blocking slide vertically by means of elevations provided on the ring body, such elevations being supported on the bottom side of the head part, and is forming by such elevations additional lateral guide surfaces for guiding the blocking slide. According to a preferred embodiment, provision is made that with its bottom side, the sliding ring slightly projects under the head part, which safely assures that the sliding ring and the blocking slide can come into contact with one another for processes that seal the blocking slide.

It is possible to form the [sealing] ring acting on the sliding ring in an elastic manner from any desired suitable material, preferably from a springy-elastic plastic material, for example from a foamed plastic. Rings [Sealing rings] of said type are useful if the depths of immersion of the hull of the boat are low, whereas greater depths of immersion of the

hull of the boat require spring forces and sealing by means of metallic bodies, for example in the form of coil springs.

Furthermore, provision is made that in the head part, near its upper end within the zone of the center opening, a ring-shaped sealing body, in particular an O-ring is arranged in a groove enlarged by a radial widening. In the operating position, said ring rests against the log transmitter in a pressure-applying, sealing manner, and, when the log transmitter is removed from the longitudinal and center openings, first defines as a stop means for O-rings additionally arranged on the log transmitter the outer end position of the log transmitter in the head part as a type of pressure point; and, when the log transmitter is subsequently displaced further, permits complete removal of the logger by means of a pressing force than can be induced into the widening of the groove by means of one of the O-rings.

In further development of the device, provision is made that the log transmitter is connected with the head part by an axial control cam, for example in the form of a cover having a screw thread, and fixed by means of the cover in the oblong and center openings of the sleeve body and the head part. The log transmitter can be removed and installed in the device [with little energy consumption by rotary movements] by unscrewing and removing of the cover.

An alternative embodiment of the device for solving the problem according to the invention is proposed according to a further invention by the measures specified in claim [10] 9. In said embodiment of the invention, the blocking slide displaceable into or from the blocking position is replaced by a pivot-mounted blocking element. Embodiments of the modified device are specified in claims 11 to 17.

The invention is explained in the following with the help of an exemplified embodiment shown in the drawing, in which:

FIG. 1 shows a side view of a device,

FIG. 2 is a sectional side view of a part component of a head part,

FIG. 3 is a bottom view of the part component according to FIG. 2,

FIG. 4 is a top view of a metallic ring body,

FIG. 5 is a sectional view of a ring body according to FIG. 4,

FIG. 6 is a side view of a ring-shaped seal,

FIG. 7 is a side view of a threaded ring for the head part,

FIG. 8 shows an enlarged partial section through a sliding ring,

FIG. 9 is a top view of a blocking slide,

FIG. 10 is a side view of a connecting screw,

FIG. 11 is a sectional view of a device with an alternative embodiment, and

FIG. 12 is a top view of a device according to FIG. 11.

FIG. 1 shows a part piece 1 of the wall of the hull of a boat, on which the device 2 is fixed by a screw fastening 3. The device has a sleeve body 4 with the outer thread 5, which extends through an opening 6 in the wall 1 of the hull of the boat in the direction of the interior of the boat. By means of a flange 7, said sleeve body is supported on the bottom side 1' of the wall 1 of the hull of the boat, and fixed by a threaded nut 8. A head part 9 is connected with the sleeve body 4 in a fixed manner via a treaded ring 9'. The head part 9 has a cylindrical center opening 10 that extends coaxially with an oblong center opening 11 of the sleeve body 4. The

center opening 10 and the oblong opening 11 jointly serve for receiving a log transmitter 12, which is inserted in the openings 10, 11 with the use of the O-rings 12' in a watertight manner. On its end facing away from the head part 9, the log transmitter 12 has a rotationally movable fan wheel 13 serving as the pulse transmitter for speed measurements. The log transmitter 12 is connected with an indicator device (not shown) via a cable 2'. Furthermore, the head part 9 is provided with a recess 14 (FIG. 2), which is coaxial with the center opening 10. A sliding ring 15 (FIG. 8) is guided in said recess 14 with axial play. Said sliding ring is subjected to the action of a spring force, for example the spring force exerted by a sealing ring 16 made of [foamed] plastic. The sliding ring 15 rests on the sealing ring 16, which is supported on the bottom 14' of the recess 14, and is displaceable by said sealing ring 16 in the direction of the lower end of the head part 9. Furthermore, the head part 9 is provided with a ring body 17 (FIGS. 1 and 5), which has a center opening 18 disposed coaxially with the openings 10, 11, as well as an annular groove 19 for accommodating an O-ring 20 (FIG. 5). The sliding ring 15 and the ring body 17 jointly form [a separating plane] the plane of a blocking slide, in which a blocking slide 21 (FIG. 9) formed by a plane and prismatic, molded sheet metal part can be inserted. The [separating] plane of the blocking slide is vertically defined by the elevations 22 formed on the ring body 17 on both

longitudinal sides of the blocking slide 21 (FIG. 3) [is bounded by guide areas (22)]. With their side zones, the elevations 22 form surfaces for guiding the blocking slide 21. Furthermore, as shown in FIGS. 2 and 8, the sliding ring 15 is defined on the bottom side by an outwardly curved surface or by the slanted surfaces 15' and an inclined inner surface 15'' of the wall. Said surfaces prevent the blocking slide 21 from impacting the sliding ring 15 in any interfering way as the blocking slide 21 is being pushed into the [separating] plane of the blocking slide. The log transmitter 12 supports a collar 23, which is fixed on the log transmitter and preferably supported in the head part 9 in a cover 29 provided with a thread 29', with a sealing ring 29'' being mounted in between. An additional ring seal 24 in the cover 29 prevents liquid from spilling over within the head part 9.

If irregularities are noticed during speed measurements with respect to the indicated speed values, the log transmitter 12 needs to be cleaned, as a rule. For this purpose, the cover 29 has to be unscrewed and removed from the head part and pulled out of the sleeve body 4 and the head part 9 in the upward direction together with the log transmitter 12. As said components are being pulled out, the O-rings 12' run against the O-ring 12'', which indicates to the user that the upper end position has been reached. As the log transmitter 12 is being pulled out further, the O-rings

12' cause the O-ring 12''' to widen and to subsequently enter into the widening 12''. [When] After the log transmitter 12 has [passed beyond] exceeded the separating plane of the blocking slide 21, the center openings 10, 11 can be blocked by pushing the blocking slide 21 into the plane of the blocking slide from the position indicated by the fully drawn line into the position shown by the dashed line (FIG. 1). In said process, the sliding ring 15 rests on the blocking slide 21, exerting pressure onto the latter, and the O-ring 20 of the ring body 17 comes to rest against the underside of the blocking slide 21 at the same time, which effects a watertight blocking of the openings 10, 11 by means of the blocking slide 21, which is kept watertight in this way. After the log transmitter 12 has been cleaned, it has to be pushed again into the openings 10, 11 in the reverse order, whereby the blocking slide 21 has to be moved outwards shortly before the log transmitter has reached the [separating plane] of the blocking slide. Thus water is prevented from exiting from the device in either direction of movement of the log transmitter 12 by means of the blocking slide 21. At the same time, the O-ring 12''' moves from the widening 12'' in order to come to rest against the log transmitter 12, sealing the latter.

Reference numeral 27 denotes a sealing ring to be mounted between the ring body 17 and the threaded ring 9', whereas the reference numeral 28 denotes a spherical element (FIG. 9) that can be used as a handle for the blocking slide 21, and

reference numeral 30 denotes threaded screws for fixing the structural components 9' 9, 17 of the head part on each other.

In the device shown in FIGS. 11 and 12, a sleeve body 32 provided with an outer thread 31 and having an oblong opening 39 is fixed on the wall 1 of the hull of the boat by means of a threaded nut 32' and a flange 32''. A head part 34 is mounted in a fixed manner on the free end of the sleeve body 32 by means of a threaded ring 33. A sealing ring 36 is arranged between the sleeve body 32 and the head part 34. Furthermore, at 35, by means of screws not shown, the threaded ring 33 is connected in a fixed manner with a flange 37 provided with an O-ring 36' inserted in an annular groove 36. A blocking element 40 provided with a passage 38 disposed concentrically in relation to the oblong opening 39 is supported on the flange 37 under spring force. The spring force is supplied in this connection by two screw springs 41 arranged diagonally in relation to each other and acting on the blocking element 40 from the top; the free abutments of said screw springs are formed by the nuts 43 mounted on the screw bolts 42, 42', the latter being fixed on the head part. The blocking element 40 is capable of swiveling by about 75° about the screw bolt 42 acting as the axle, and is guided in this connection by the other screw bolt 42' that engages a slide groove 44 in the blocking element 40. The flange 37 may be made of any desired material, for example from a suitable

plastic or a metallic material, whereby a flange 37 made of metallic material offers the advantage that the blocking element 40 can be beveled within the zone of the edge 37' of the opening, and that the bevel permits adaptation of the O-ring 36' when the blocking element 40 is swiveling. The blocking element 40 is preferably formed by a plate-shaped body part 40' with an adjoining sleeve-shaped attachment 40'', whose free end has a thread 45 to which a cover (not shown) can be screwed. The log transmitter (not shown) is capable of supporting itself with rotational mobility on the cover in a watertight manner.

For explaining the function of the device it is necessary to start from the fact that in the positions shown in FIGS. 11 and 12, the blocking element 40 is associated with the passage 38 of the opening 39'' of the flange 37 in a coaxial manner. The blocking element 40 is resting here in a pressure-exerting manner on the O-ring 36' owing to the force of the initial tension of the two springs 41 clamped on the screw bolts 42, 42', which prevents water from passing through within the zone of the passage 38 of the blocking element 40. The positions shown for the blocking element 40 and the flange 37 permit a log transmitter to be inserted in the center and oblong openings 31' and 39, respectively. As shown in FIG. 12, for inserting the log transmitter, the blocking element 40 has to be turned in the anticlockwise sense of rotation, so that the

passage 38 corresponds coaxially with the center opening of the sleeve body 32 (position drawn by a dashed line).

For cleaning work on the log transmitter, the log transmitter present in the oblong opening 39 and the center opening 31' has to be pulled from the device upwards and then moved in the position shown by the dashed line by swiveling the blocking element 40 down in the clockwise sense, whereby the opening 39'' can be closed due to the fact that the plane part of the blocking element extends over the opening 39''. It is understood that for reaching the closing position, no water or a minor amount of water at the most flows in the interior of the boat.

For installing the log transmitter in the device, the blocking element 40 is turned in the opposite direction, i.e. in the anticlockwise sense of rotation (FIG. 12), whereby the blocking element 40 is moved from the position shown by the dashed line back into the position indicated by the full line in FIG. 12. Again, no water will penetrate the interior of the boat because when the blocking element is swiveled back, it is retained on the O-ring 36' in a pressed way. The free end of the sleeve-like attachment 40'' can be sealed by means of a screw-on type cover (not shown).